

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface including:

a drainage layer including a first flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic loop pile tufts, said loop pile tufts being tufted into said first flexible backing sheet in adjacent, parallel rows and extending upwardly from said first flexible backing sheet; and

a water-permeable synthetic turf layer disposed above the drainage layer, said turf layer including a second flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic ribbons extending upwardly from said second flexible backing sheet to provide a playing surface, said second flexible backing sheet being water-permeable, and said turf layer including a layer of a granular infill material filling the voids between the ribbons in the synthetic turf layer;

wherein said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of said drainage layer have a substantially ~~generally~~ uniform height to support the second flexible backing sheet in a substantially ~~generally~~ planar configuration offset above said first flexible backing sheet; and

wherein said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of said drainage layer allow lateral drainage of water which drains from said synthetic turf layer, and said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of substantially uniform height further provide support and lateral stability to the synthetic turf layer disposed thereabove.

2 - 3 (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said loop pile tufts are tufted into the first flexible backing sheet at a gauge of about 1/4".

5. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

the substantially uniform height of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of heights ~~lies~~ between 3 and 9 mm.

6. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 5 wherein:

the substantially uniform height of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of heights between 5 and 7 mm ~~said height is about 5-7 mm.~~

7. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said loop pile tufts are made of polypropylene, polyethylene or a polypropylene and polyethylene blend.

8. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said loop pile tufts are realized from a tuft material ~~is the form of a yarn material.~~

9. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said first flexible backing sheet is latex-backed.

10. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet is less water-permeable than the second flexible backing sheet.

11. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of less than 10%.

12. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 11 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of about 3-5%.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1 wherein:

said second flexible backing sheet is micro-perforated.

15. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 14 wherein:

perforation of said second flexible backing sheet is uniform.

16. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface including:

a drainage layer including a first flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic loop pile tufts, said loop pile tufts being tufted into said first backing sheet in adjacent, parallel rows and extending upwardly from said first backing sheet; and

a water-permeable synthetic grass layer disposed above the drainage layer, said grass layer including a second flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic ribbons, representing blades of grass, said synthetic ribbons being attached to and extending upwardly from said second backing sheet, said second flexible backing sheet being water-permeable;

wherein said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of said drainage layer have a substantially ~~generally~~ uniform height to support the second flexible backing sheet in a substantially ~~generally~~ planar configuration offset above said first flexible backing sheet; and

wherein said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of said drainage layer allow lateral drainage of water which drains from said synthetic grass layer, and said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of substantially uniform height further provide support and lateral stability to the synthetic grass layer disposed thereabove.

17 - 18 (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 wherein:

said loop pile tufts are tufted into the first flexible backing sheet at a gauge of about 1/4".

20. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 wherein:

the substantially uniform height of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of heights ~~lies~~ between 3 and 9 mm.

21. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 20 wherein:

the substantially uniform height of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of heights between 5 and 7 mm ~~said height is about 5-7 mm.~~

22. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 wherein:

said first flexible backing sheet is latex-backed.

23. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet is less water-permeable than the second flexible backing sheet.

24. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of less than 10%.

25. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 24 wherein:

the first flexible backing sheet has a water permeability of about 3-5%.

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16 wherein:

said second flexible backing sheet is micro-perforated.

28. (previously presented) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 27 wherein:

perforation of said second flexible backing sheet is uniform.

29. (currently amended) A synthetic sports or recreation surface including:

a drainage layer including a first flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic loop pile tufts, said loop pile tufts being tufted into said first backing sheet in adjacent, parallel rows and extending upwardly from said first backing sheet; and

a water-permeable synthetic grass layer disposed above the drainage layer, said grass layer including a second flexible backing sheet and a plurality of synthetic ribbons, representing blades of grass, said synthetic ribbons being attached to and extending upwardly from said second backing sheet, said second backing sheet being water-permeable;

wherein said adjacent, parallel rows of loop pile tufts of said drainage layer have a substantially ~~generally~~ uniform height to support the second flexible backing sheet in a substantially ~~generally~~ planar configuration offset above said first flexible backing sheet; and

wherein said drainage layer is constructed to allow a fraction of water draining from said synthetic grass layer to drain through said first backing sheet and a further fraction of water draining from said synthetic grass layer to drain laterally along said drainage layer, and to further provide support and lateral stability to the synthetic grass layer disposed thereabove.

30. (new) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1, wherein:

the lateral drainage of water, uniform support and lateral stability provided by the drainage layer to the synthetic turf layer are dictated by a gauge of the loop pile tufts and a stitching parameter of the loop pile tufts.

31. (new) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 30, wherein:

the gauge of the loop pile tufts is about 1/4";

the stitching parameter of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of between 180 stitches per meter and 280 stitches per meter; and

the substantially uniform height of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of heights between 3 and 9 mm.

32. (new) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 1, wherein:

the loop pile tufts are tufted into the first flexible backing sheet with a stitching parameter selected from range between 180 stitches per meter and 280 stitches per meter.

33. (new) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16, wherein:

the lateral drainage of water, uniform support and lateral stability provided by the drainage layer to the synthetic turf layer are dictated by a gauge of the loop pile tufts and a stitching parameter of the loop pile tufts.

34. (new) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 33, wherein:

the gauge of the loop pile tufts is about 1/4";

the stitching parameter of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of between 180 stitches per meter and 280 stitches per meter; and

the substantially uniform height of the loop pile tufts is selected from a range of heights between 3 and 9 mm.

35. (new) A synthetic sports or recreation surface according to claim 16, wherein:

the loop pile tufts are tufted into the first flexible backing sheet with a stitching parameter selected from range between 180 stitches per meter and 280 stitches per meter.